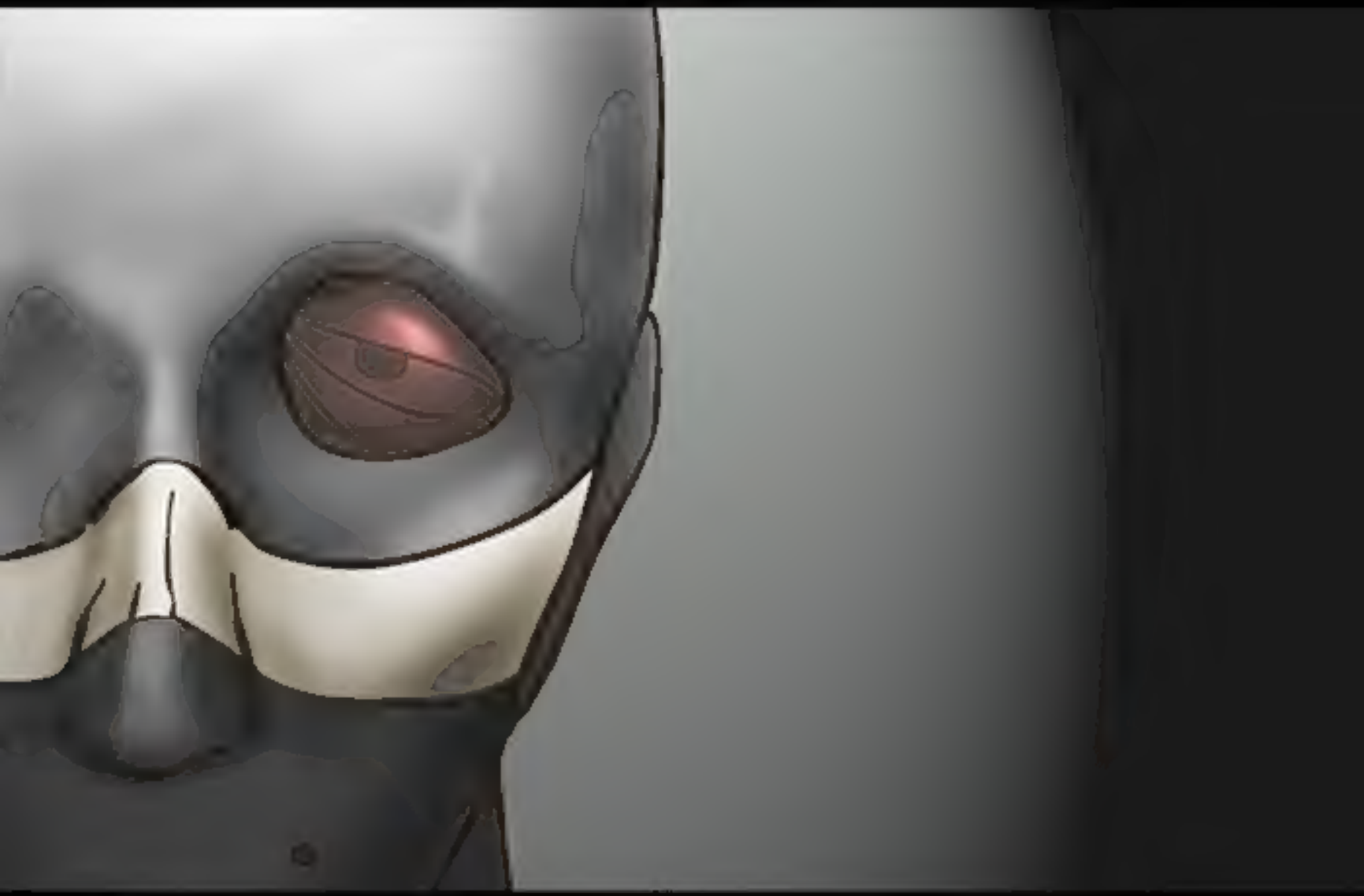
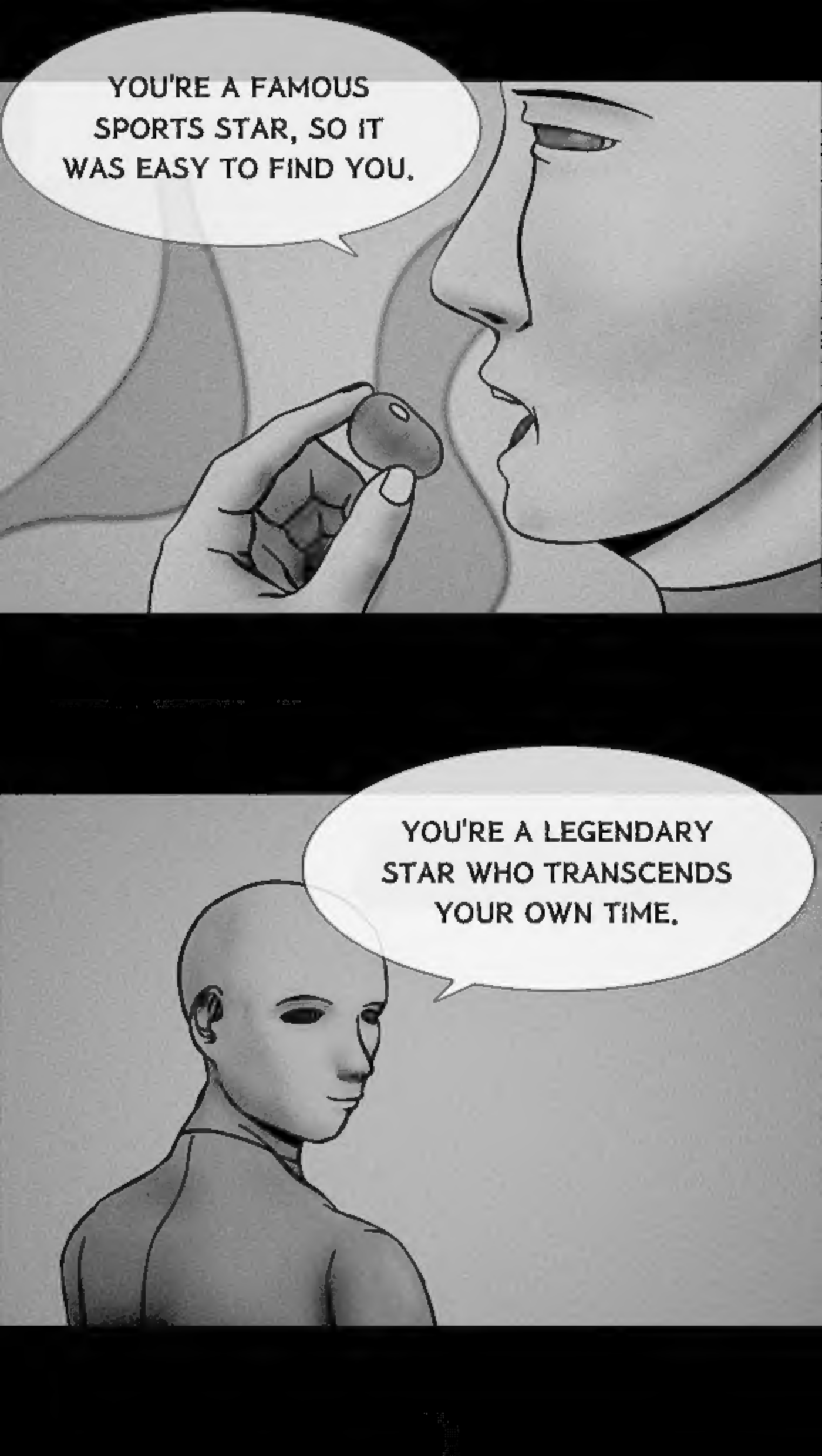
BACK TO

THE ARENA.

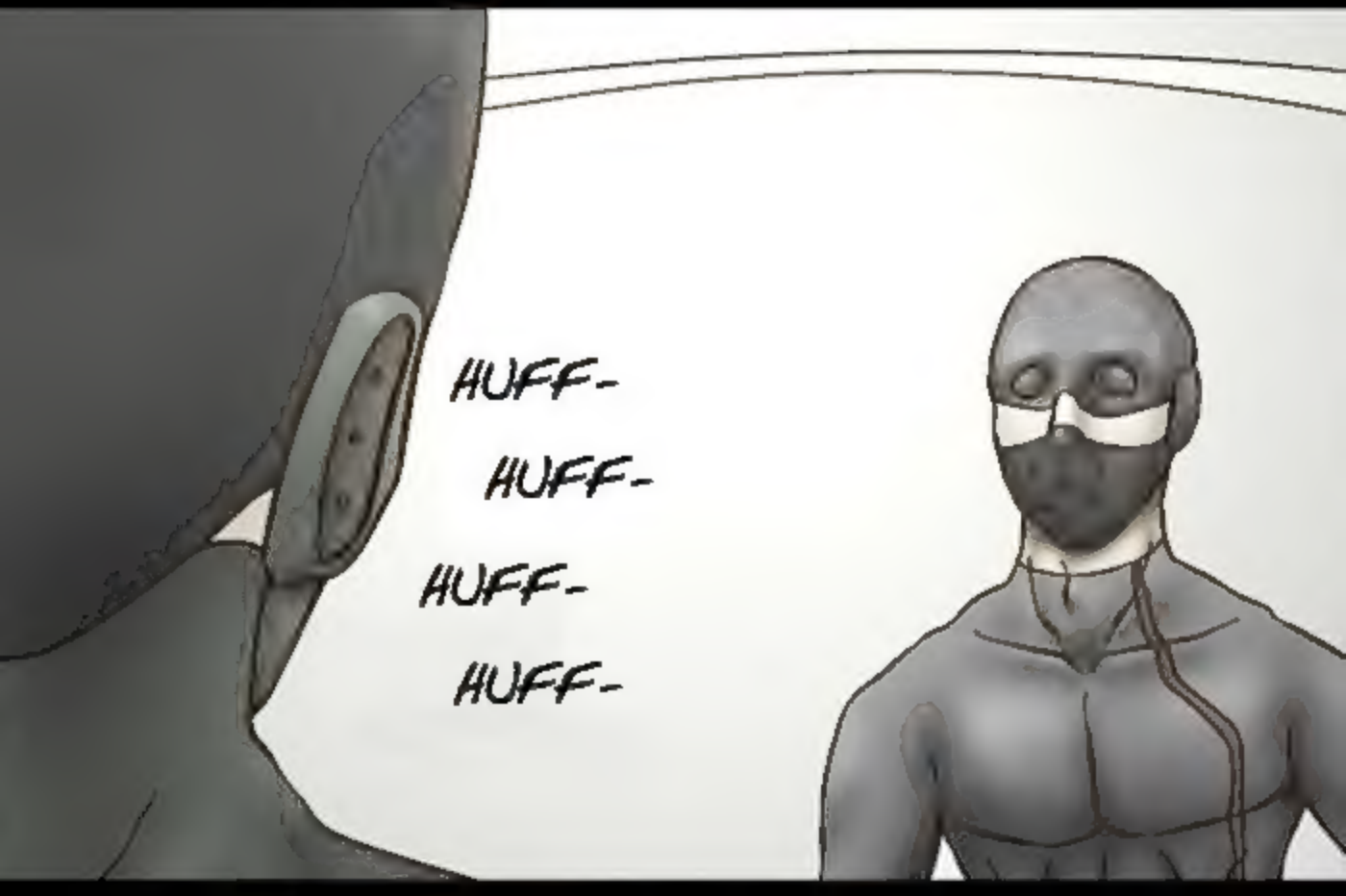
BUT I WASN'T ANXIOUS OR AFRAID AT ALL.



BECAUSE ALL OF THE HINTS I HAD

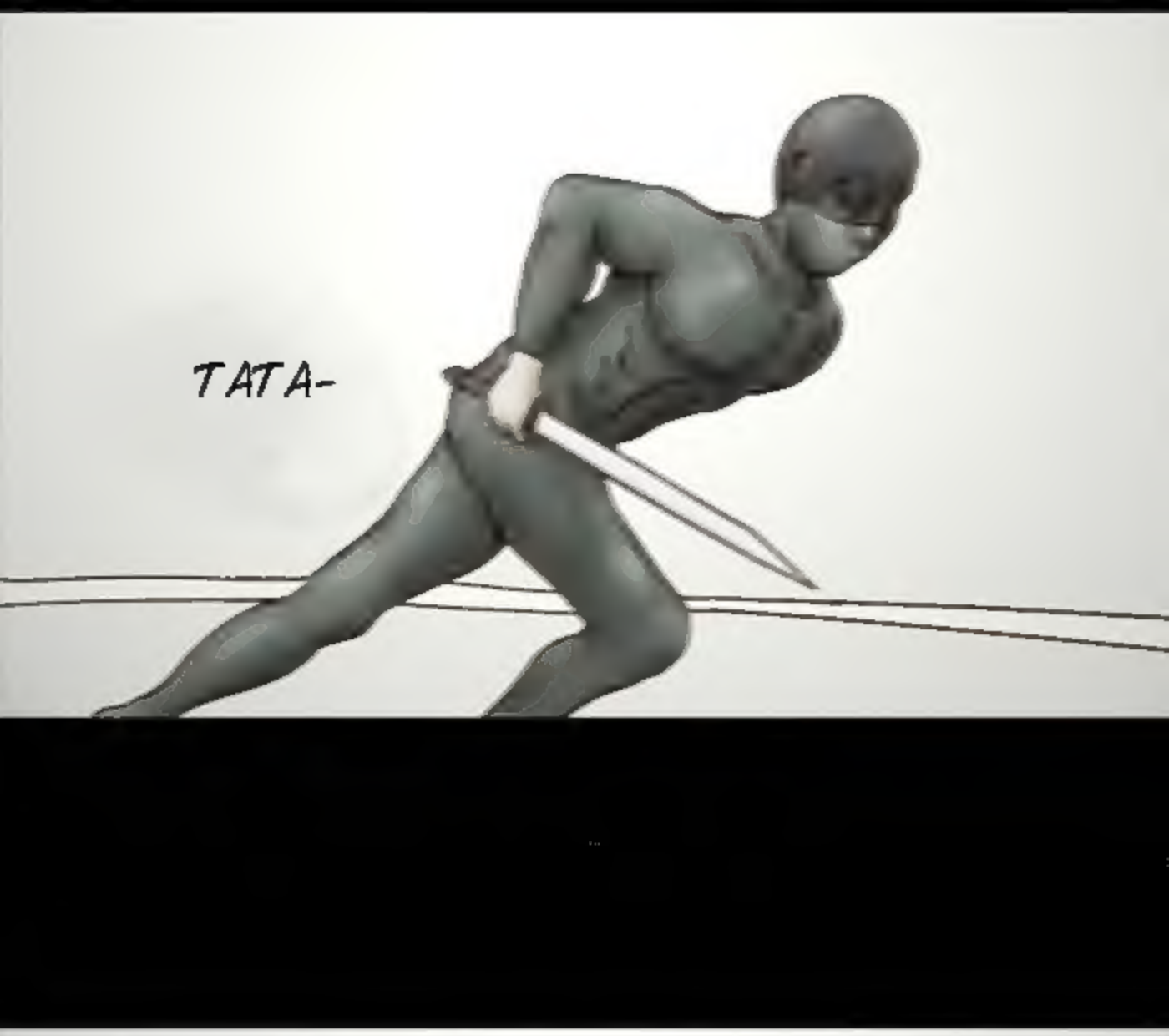

YOU'RE A FAMOUS SPORTS STAR, SO IT WAS EASY TO FIND YOU.
YOU'RE A LEGENDARY STAR WHO TRANSCENDS YOUR OWN TIME.

POINT TO A SINGLE ANSWER.



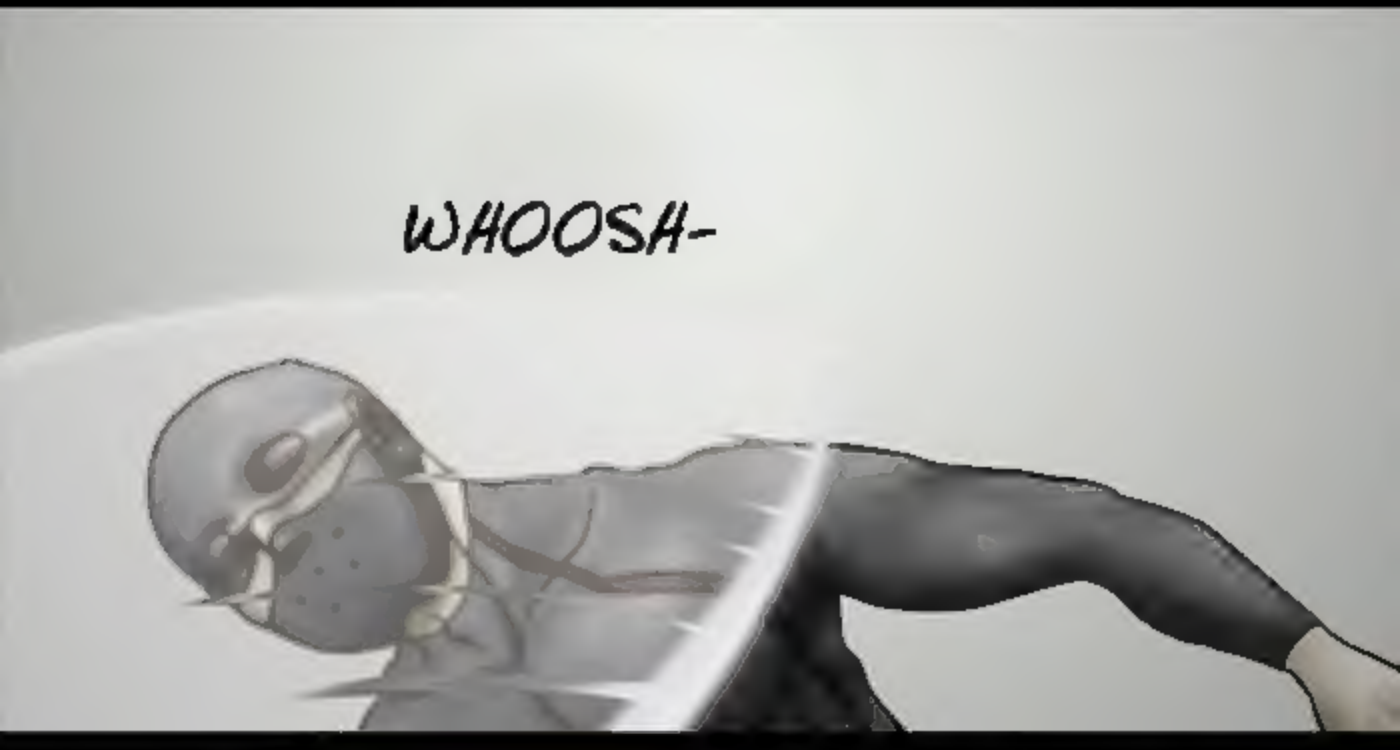
SORRY, BUT THE WINNER HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED.

I'M DESTINED TO RETURN TO MY OWN TIME.



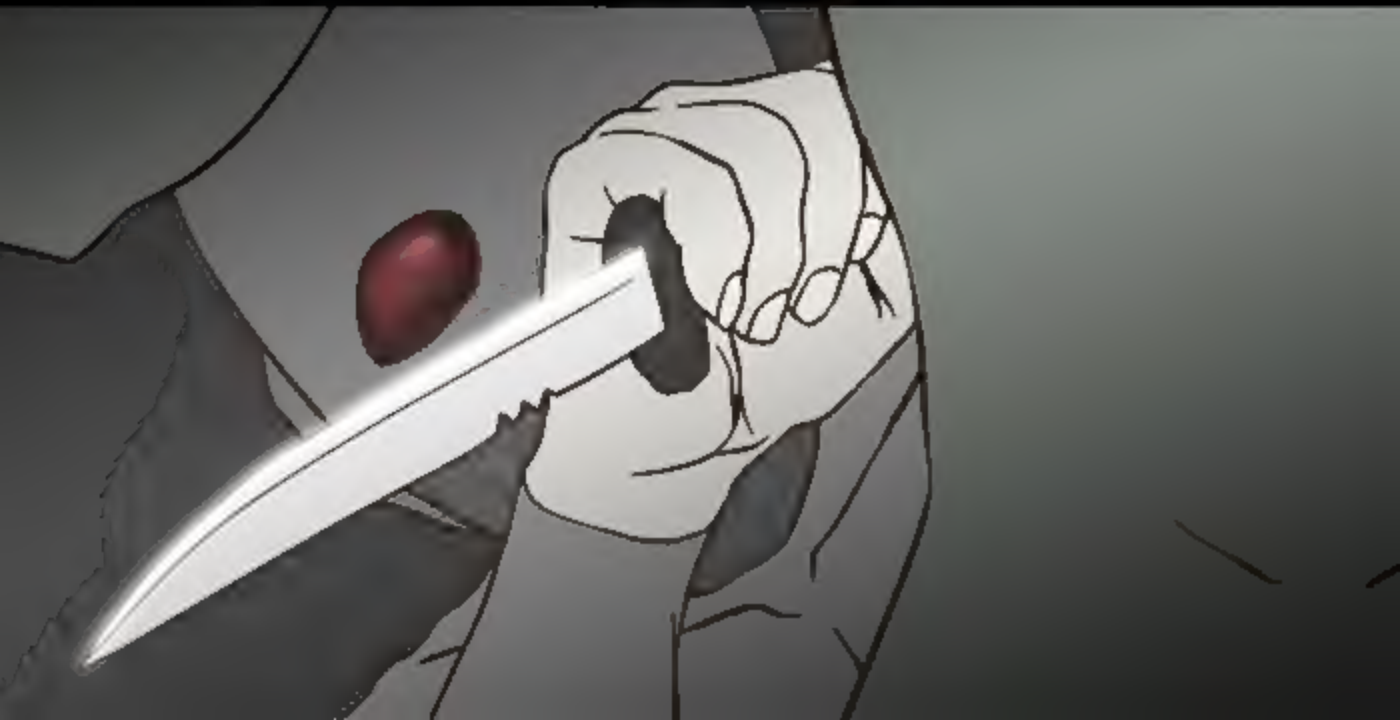
MY BODY WAS LIGHTER THAN EVER BEFORE.

SINCE ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WIN,
JUST AS I WAS MEANT TO.



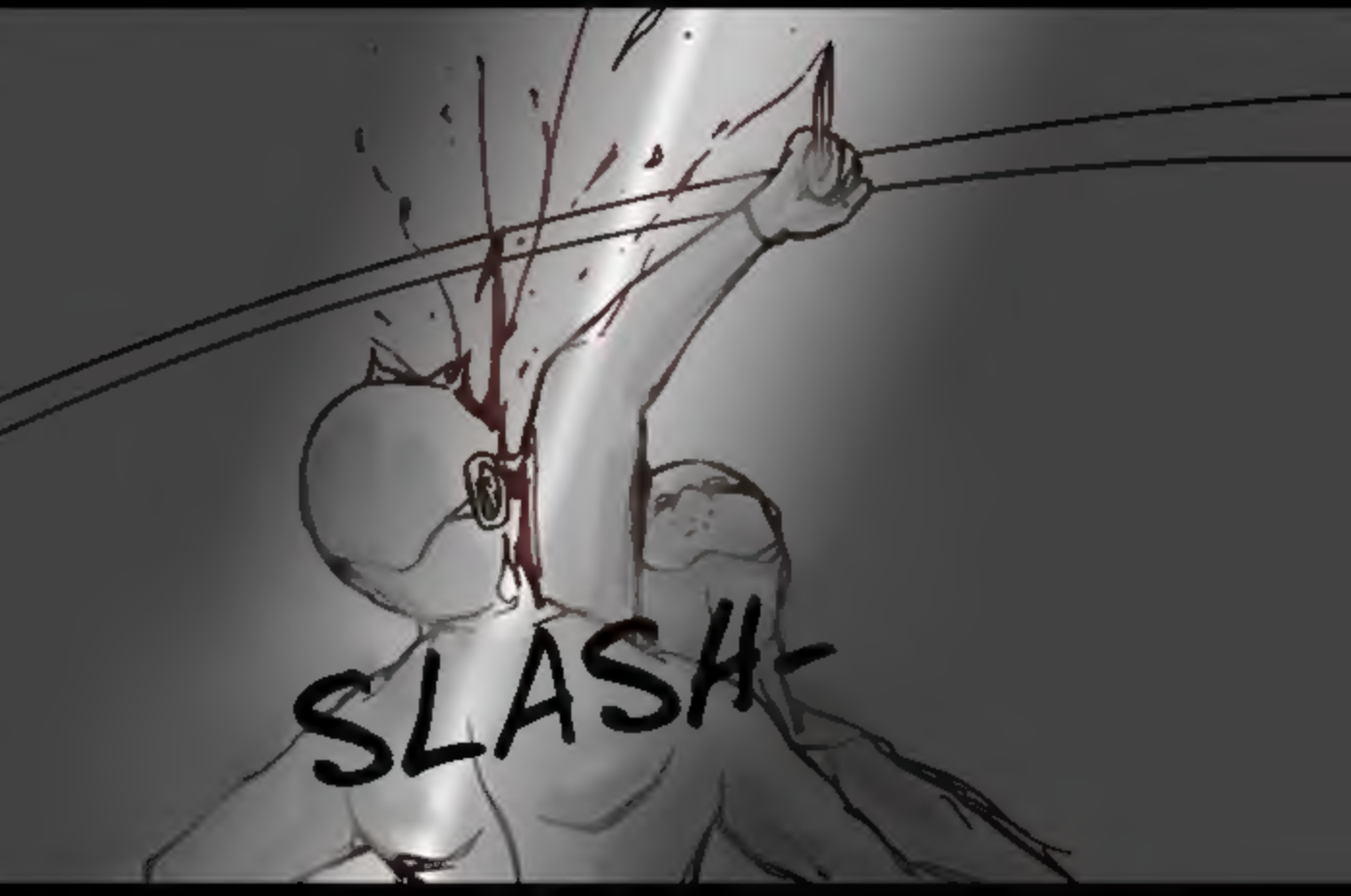
THE ANXIETY-FILLED MOVEMENTS.
THE HESITATION IN HIS BLADE.

IT WAS LIKE SEEING MYSELF
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE ARENA.



SORRY. I'M REALLY SORRY.

BUT I'M ALREADY

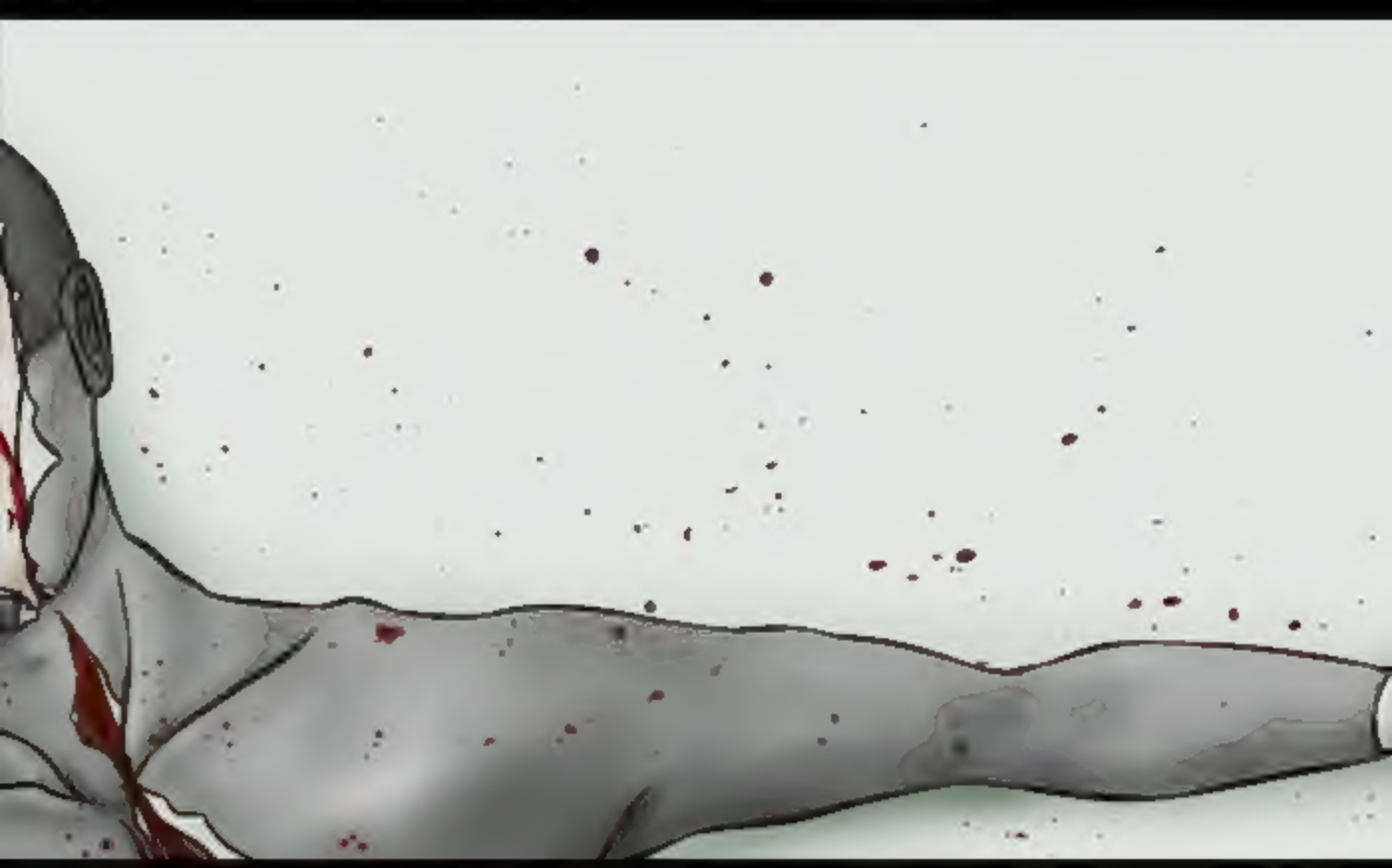


DESTINED TO WIN!

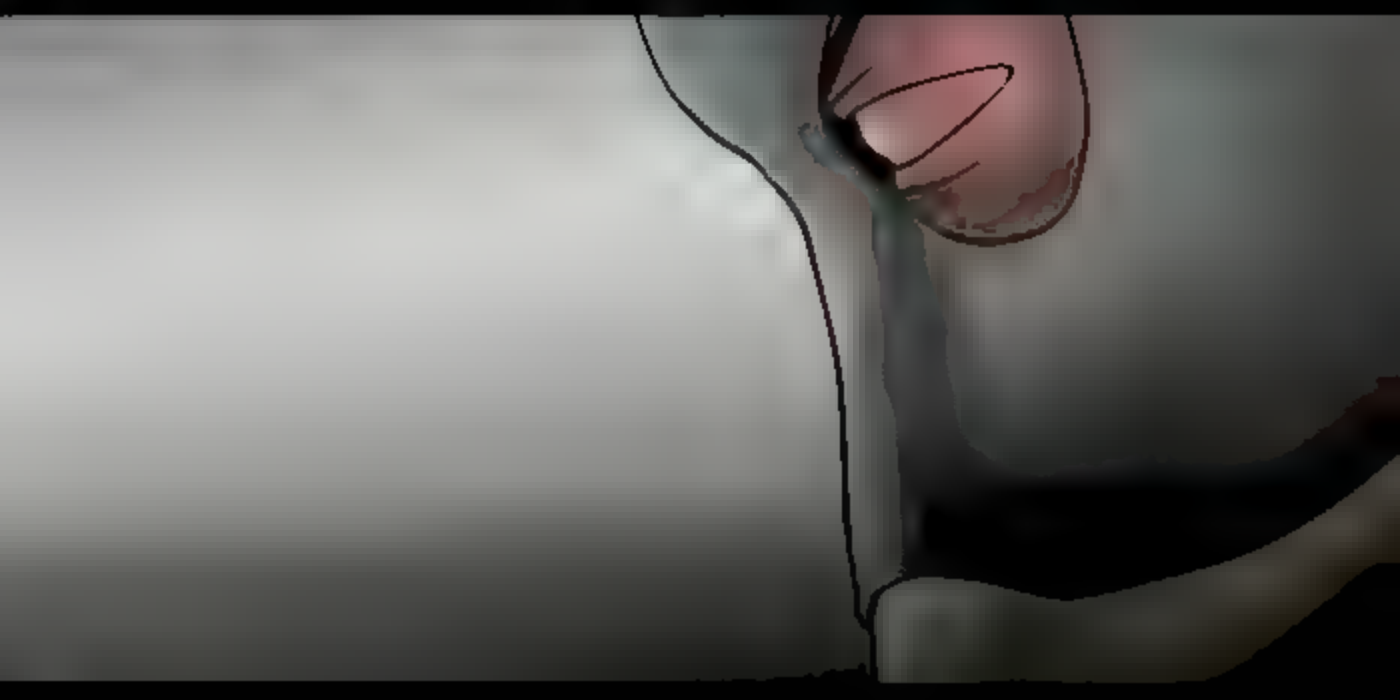
IT ENDED.

JUST AS IT WAS MEANT TO.

HUH?



WHAT THE...?



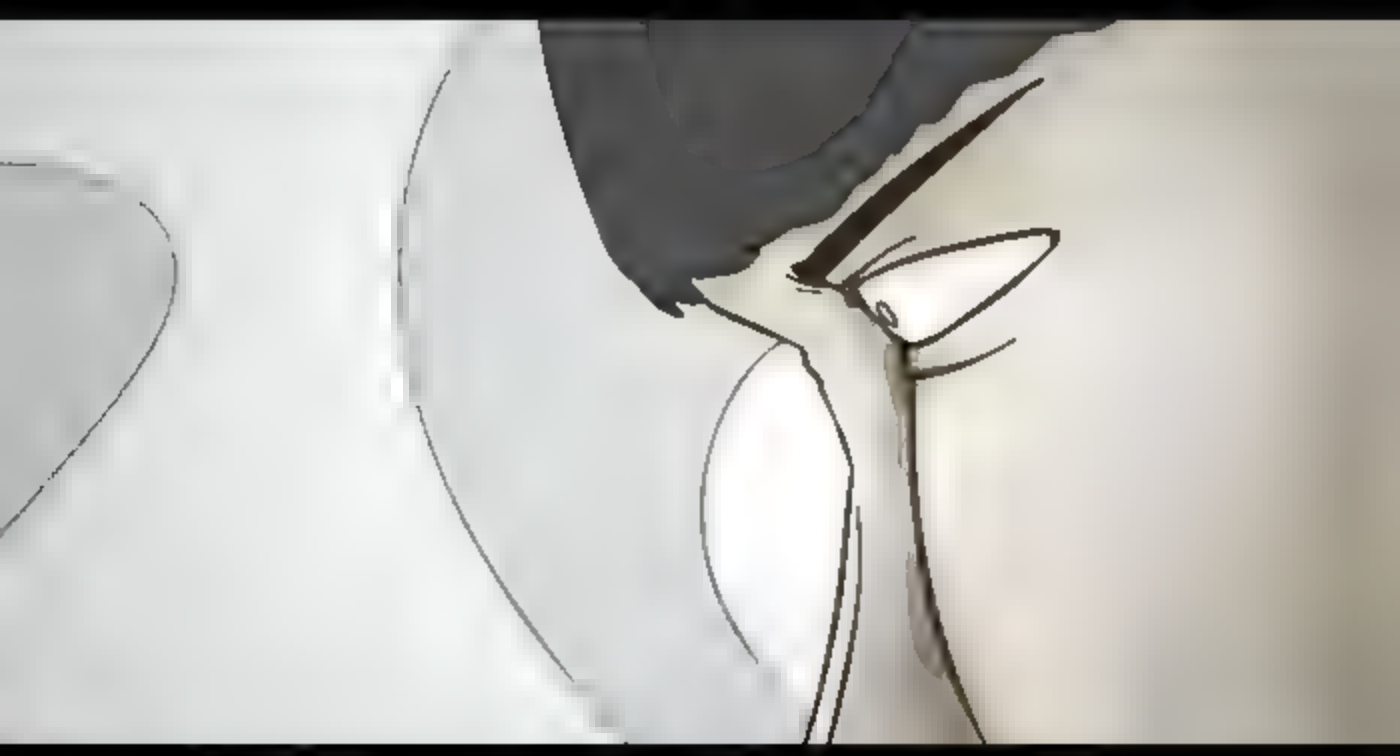
IS THAT...?

FRIDAY
FORBIDDEN TALES
禁曜日

050. TRANSMISSION (4)

THE UNEXPECTED PRIZE

FROM MY FIGHT

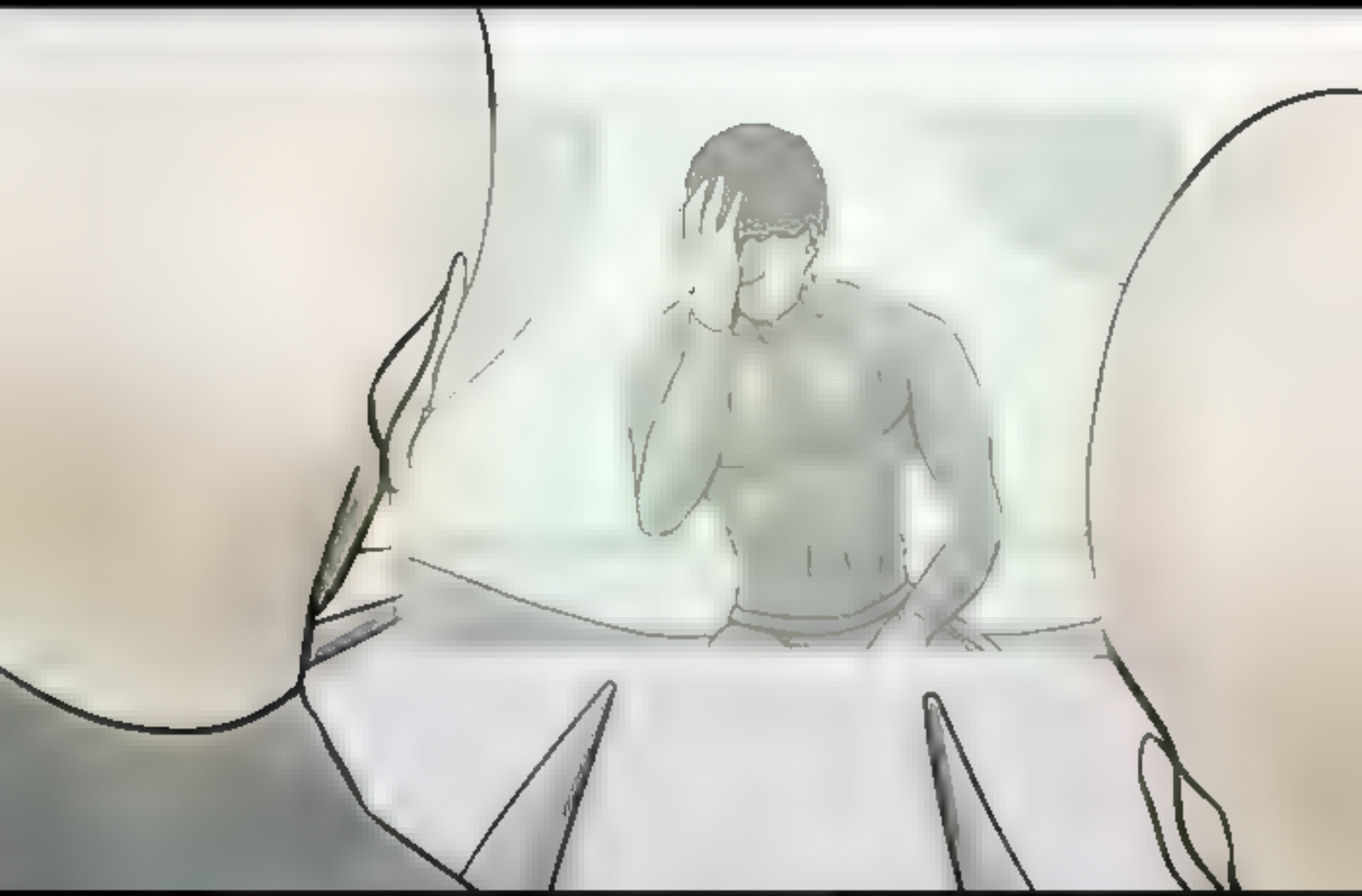


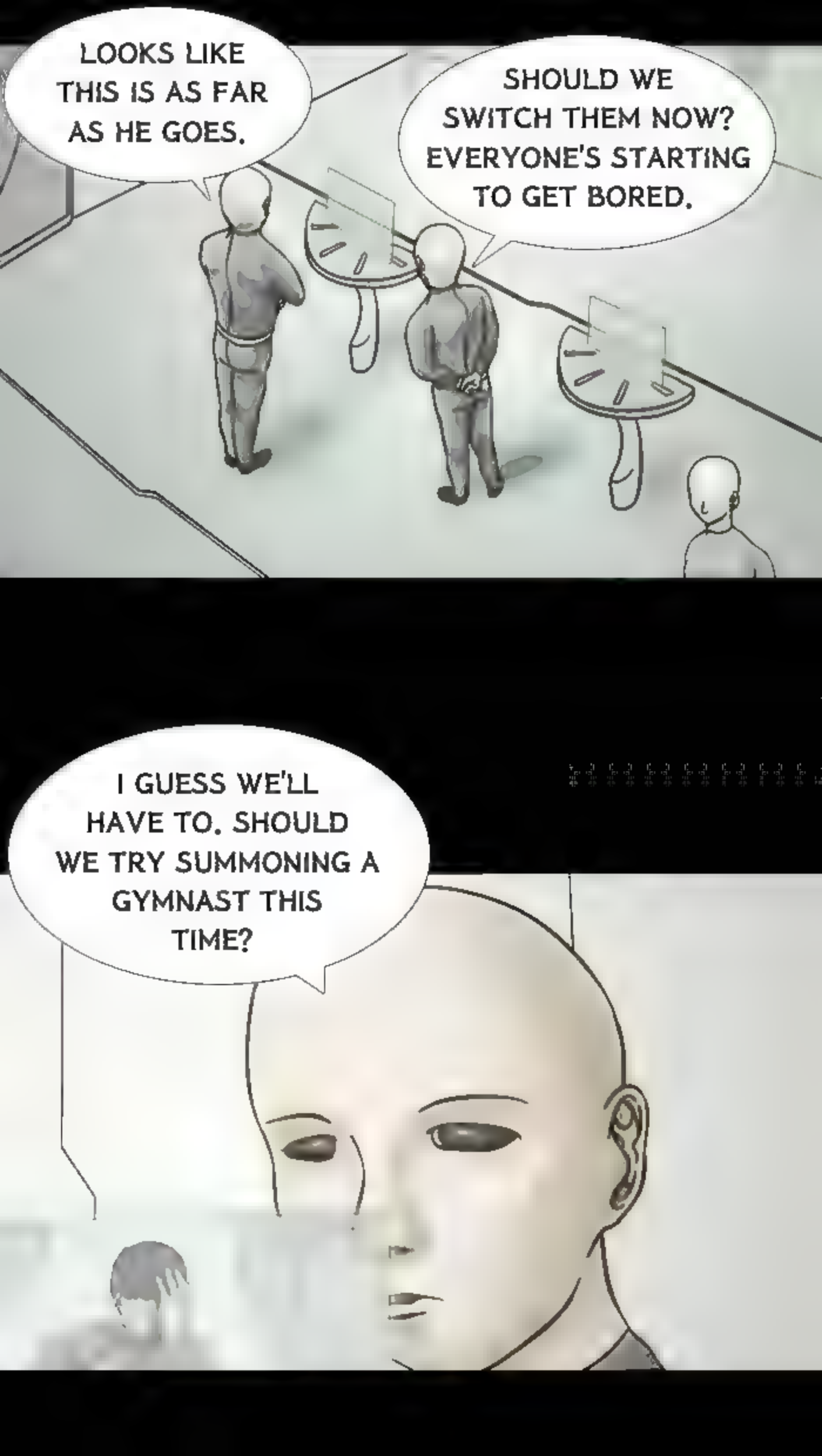
WAS CHAOS, CONFUSION, FEAR,
FRUSTRATION AND DESPERATION.

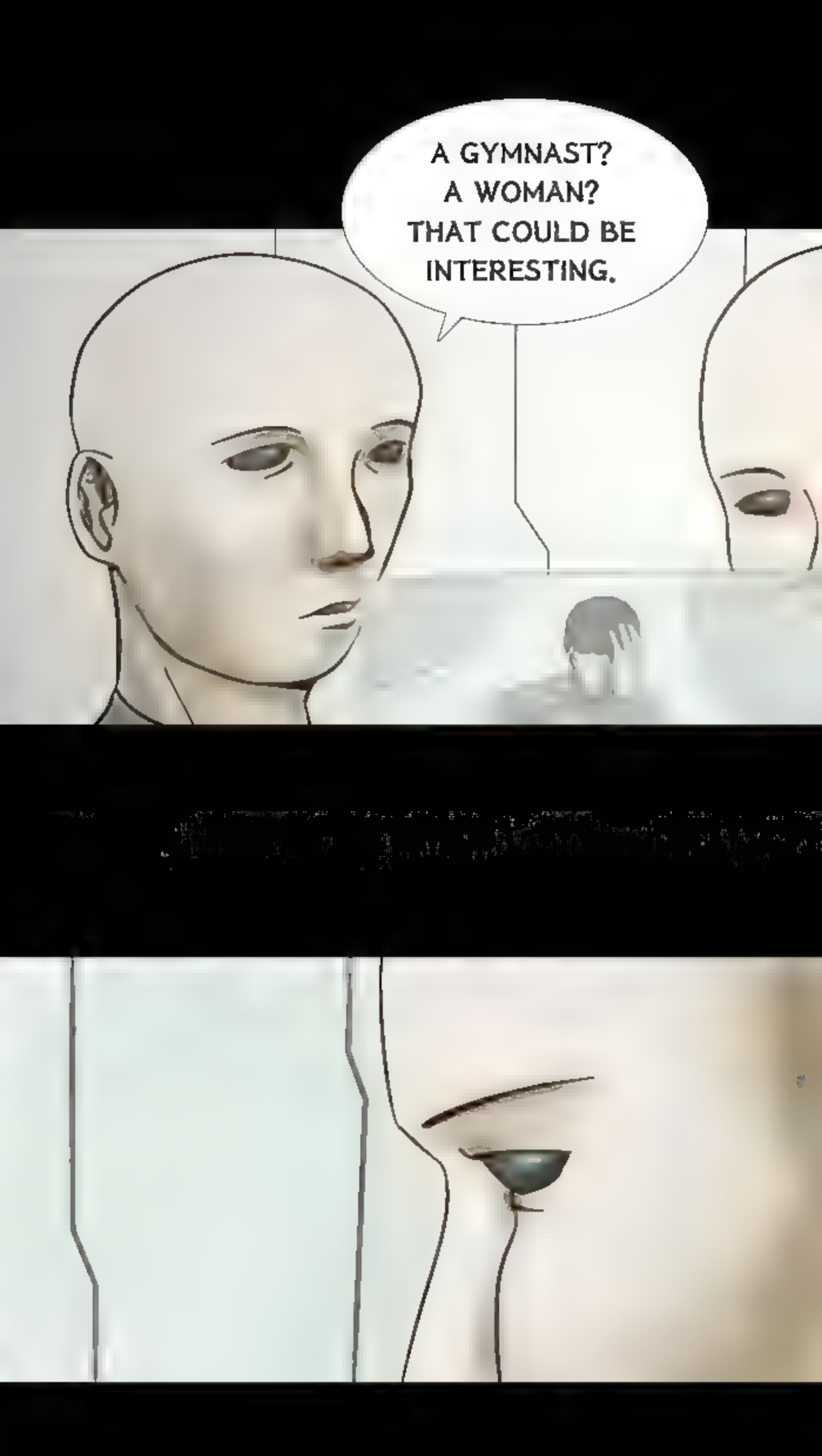
AND A BIT OF DIZZINESS.

IT WAS DEFINITELY ME. THAT'S RIGHT- ME.

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
WHAT ON EARTH WAS GOING ON?




LOOKS LIKE THIS IS AS FAR AS HE GOES.
SHOULD WE SWITCH THEM NOW? EVERYONE'S STARTING TO GET BORED.
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO. SHOULD WE TRY SUMMONING A GYMNAST THIS TIME?


A GYMNAST?
A WOMAN?
THAT COULD BE
INTERESTING.

WE'LL DISPOSE OF
THE WHOLE BATCH.

NO MORE MEALS, TRAINING OR TESTS.

I FELT UNEASINESS WASHING OVER ME IN THE DARK.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME NOW?

WHAT AM I, AND WHO WAS THAT PERSON

THAT LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE ME?

I'M AFRAID.

OF TOMORROW,

OF THIS INSANE FUTURE.

OF HAVING THESE STRANGE DOUBTS
ABOUT EVEN CALLING MYSELF "ME"

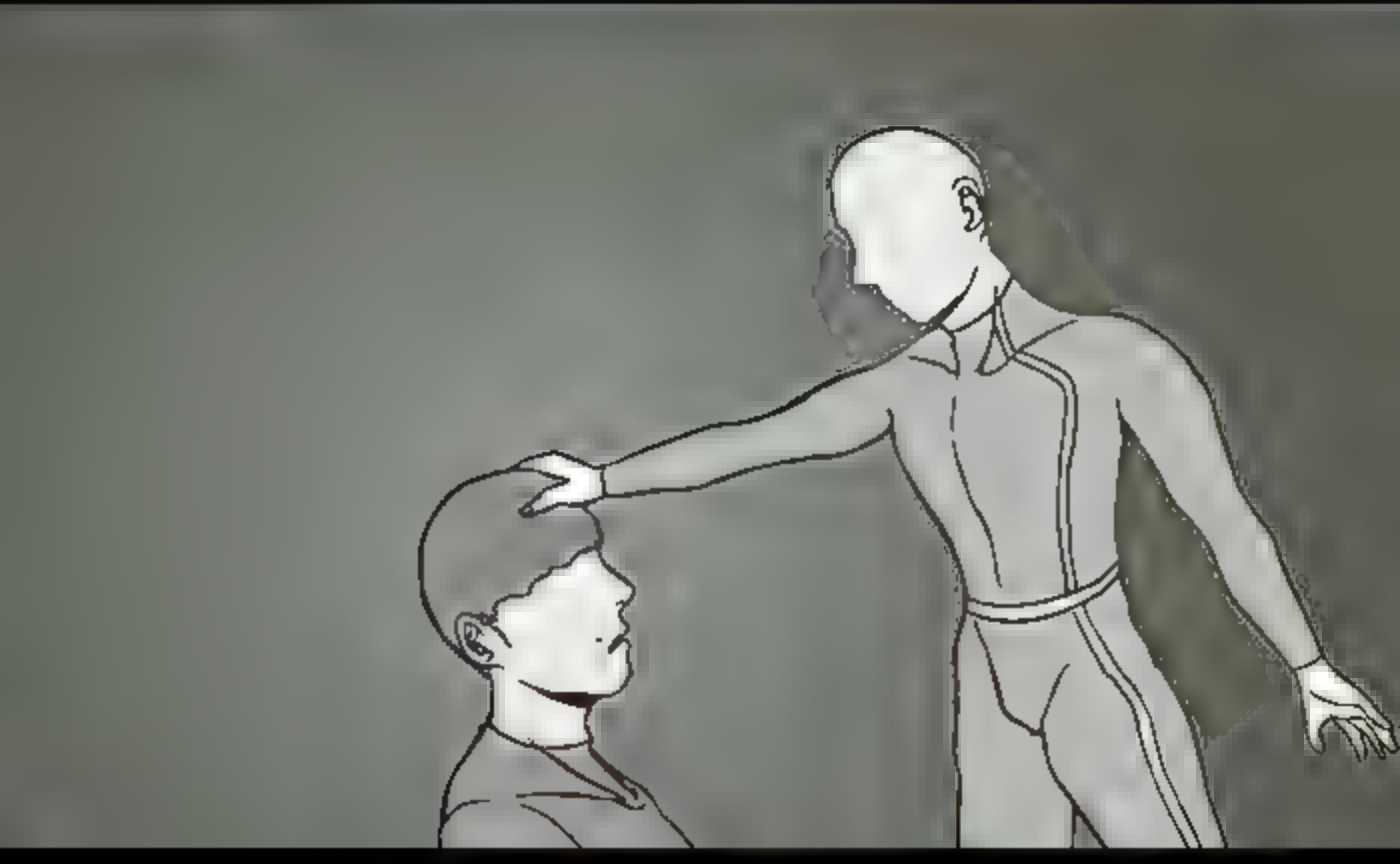
ALL OF THIS. EVERYTHING.

IT SCARES ME.

HM?

JIIIING
W-WHO ARE YOU...?

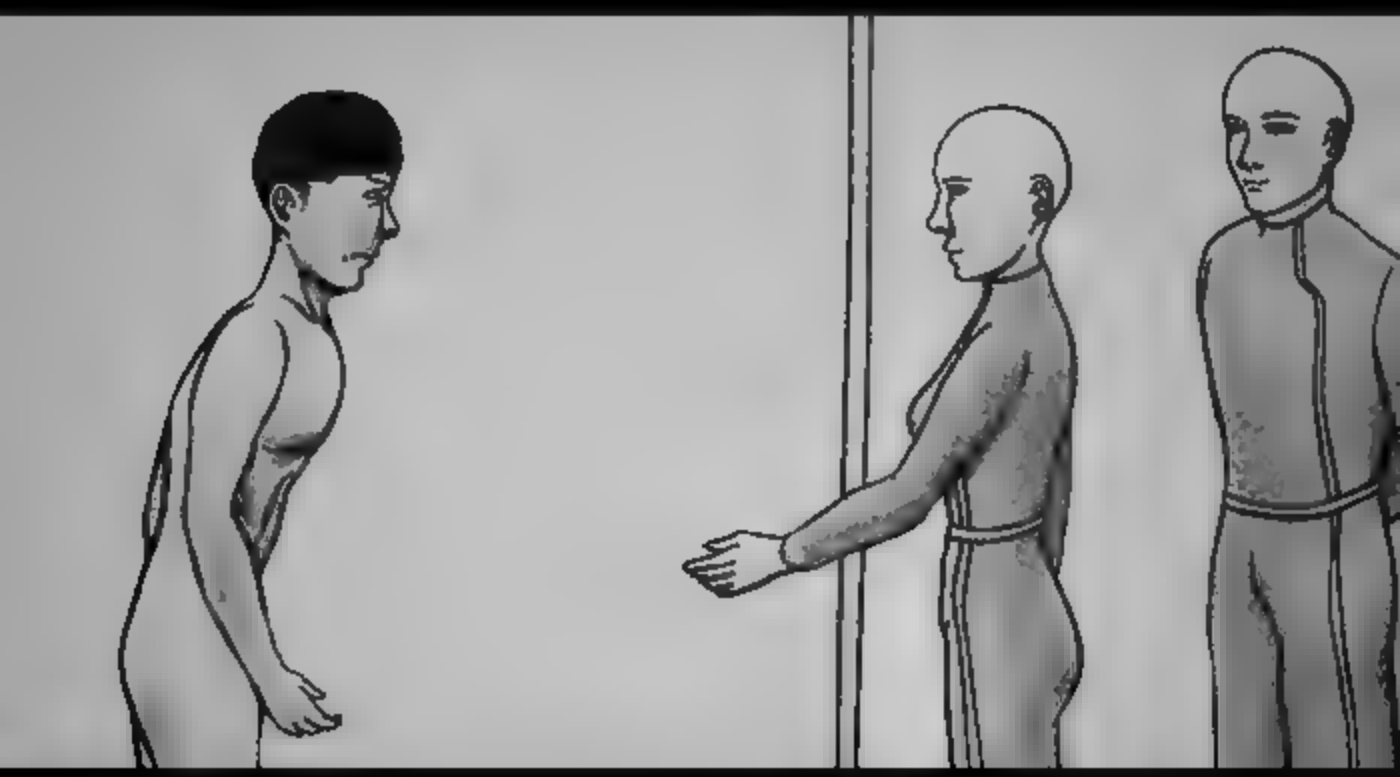
CLASP-
AGH.



WHAT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

WE MADE PHYSICAL CONTACT WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED HERE.



I REMOVED THE CONSTRAINTS IMPLANTED IN YOUR BODY AT THE TIME.

SURPRISED, RIGHT?
I'M FROM A PROTECTIVE ORGANIZATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF ORGANISMS.

ORGANISMS?

...NO,
NOT HUMANS.
YOU... OR RATHER,
YOU PEOPLE DO
NOT SATISFY THE
DEFINITION OF BEING
HUMAN.

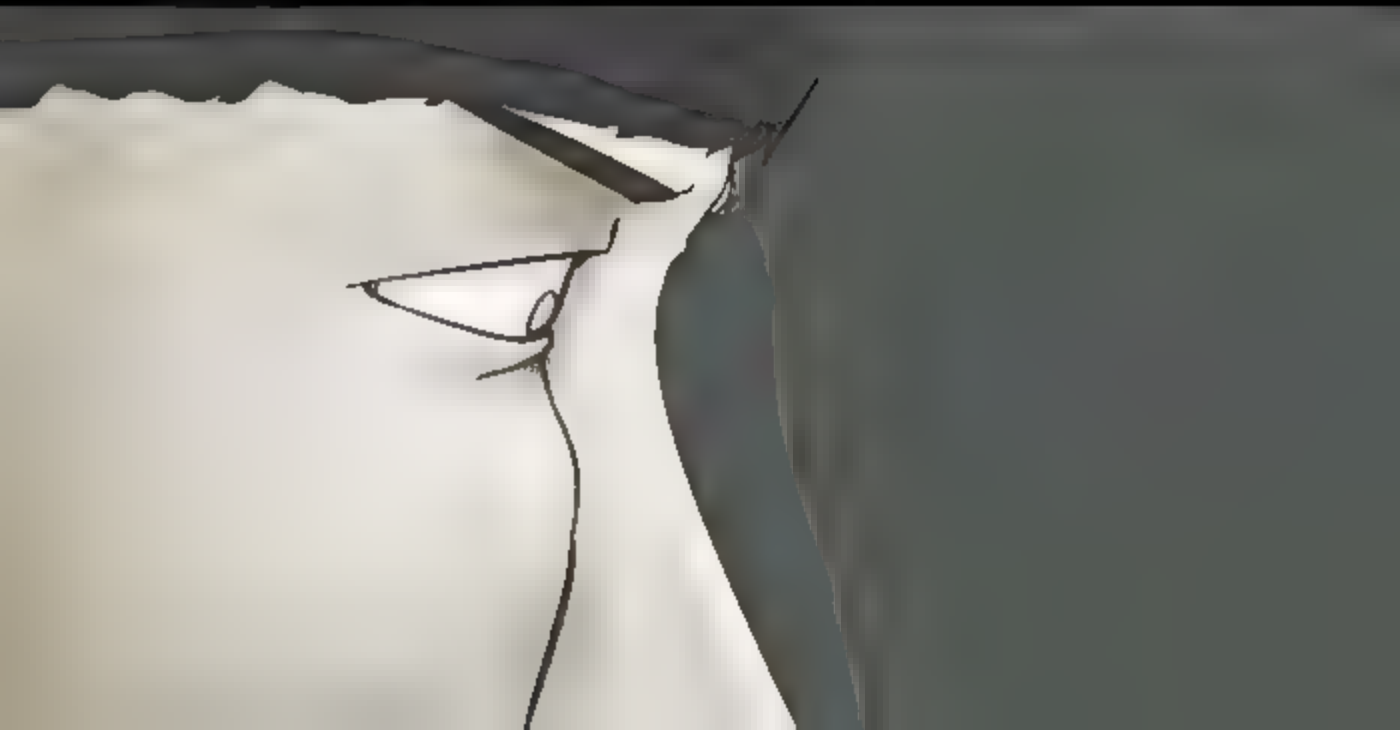
I'M NOT HUMAN?

SO A CREATURE WHO BREATHES, THINKS, CRIES,

LAUGHS AND SPEAKS— I'M NOT HUMAN?

NO, I CAN'T GO YET. LIKE A DOG WHO LOSE A FIGHT.

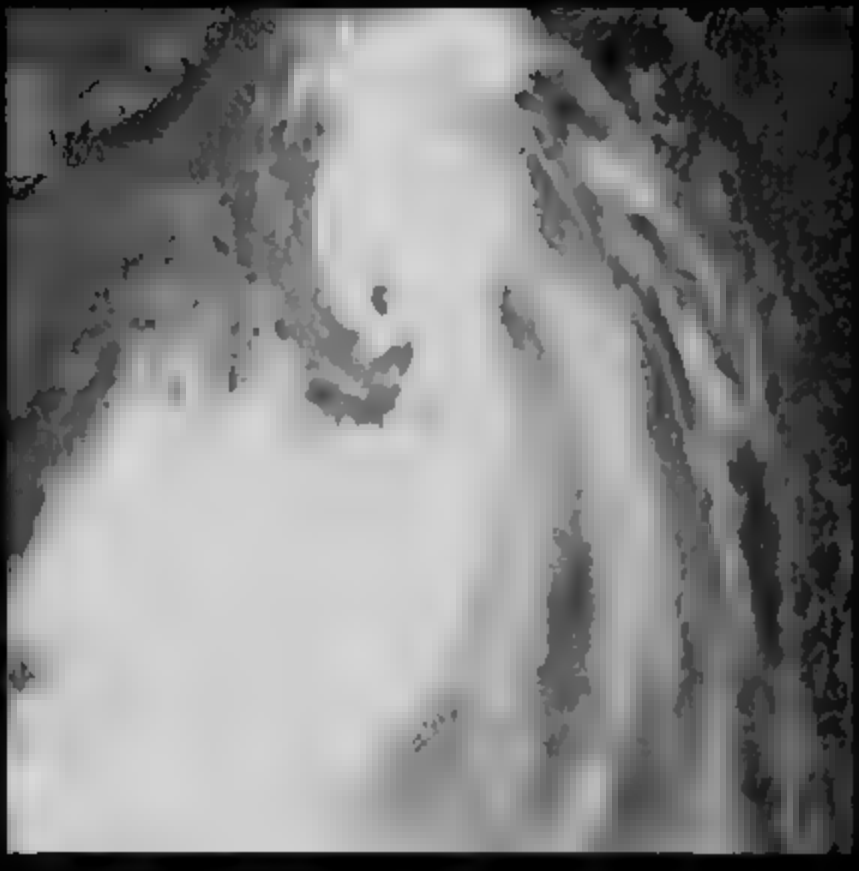
I CAN'T RUN OFF WITH MY TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS.



TO BE MORE PRECISE,

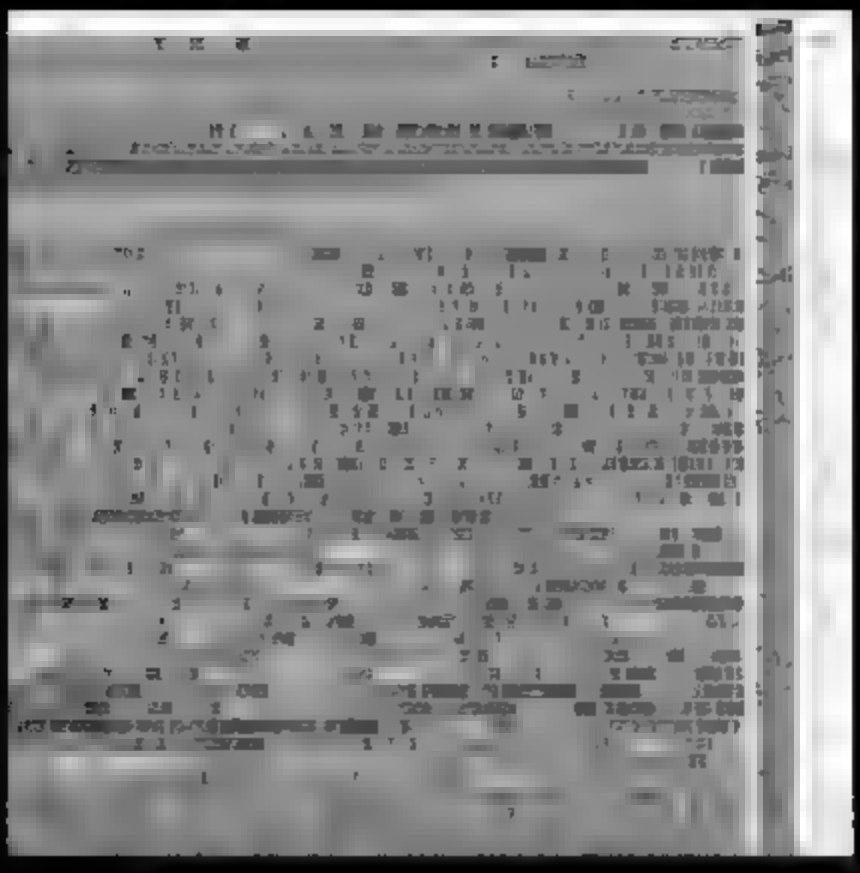
I WAS AFRAID OF LEAVING THIS ISOLATION
WITHOUT EVEN FIGURING OUT WHO "I" AM.

WEATHER FORECASTS

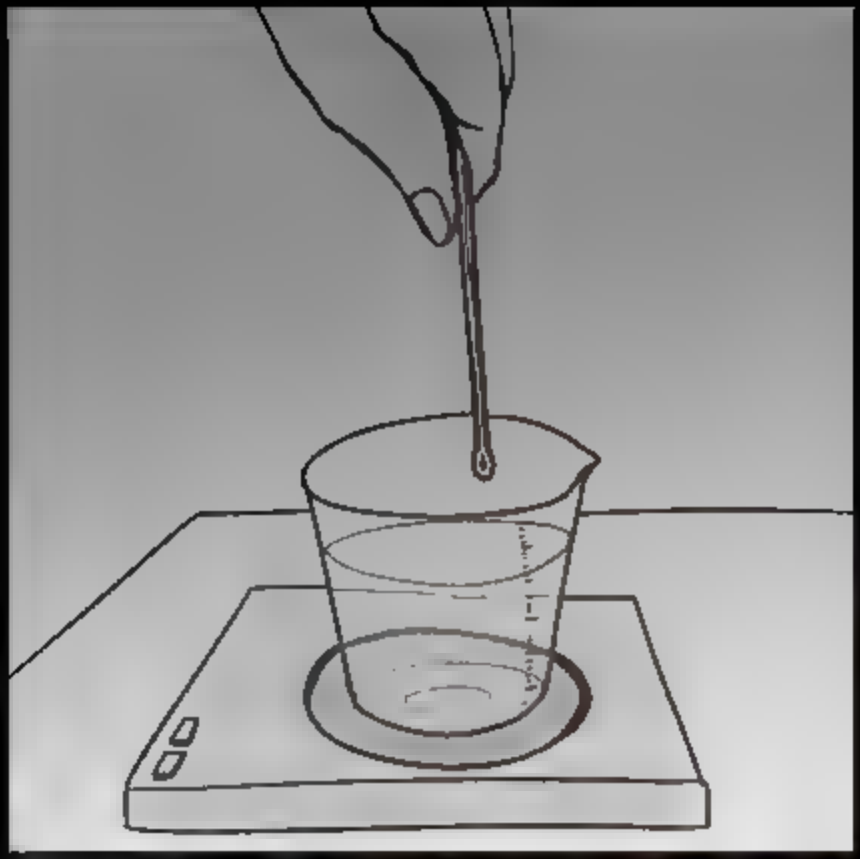


A PREDICTION OF WEATHER IN THE FUTURE BASED ON CALCULATIONS AND ANALYSES OF DATA CONCERNING TEMPERATURE, ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE, CLOUDINESS, GRAVITATIONAL ATTRACTION AND REPULSION.

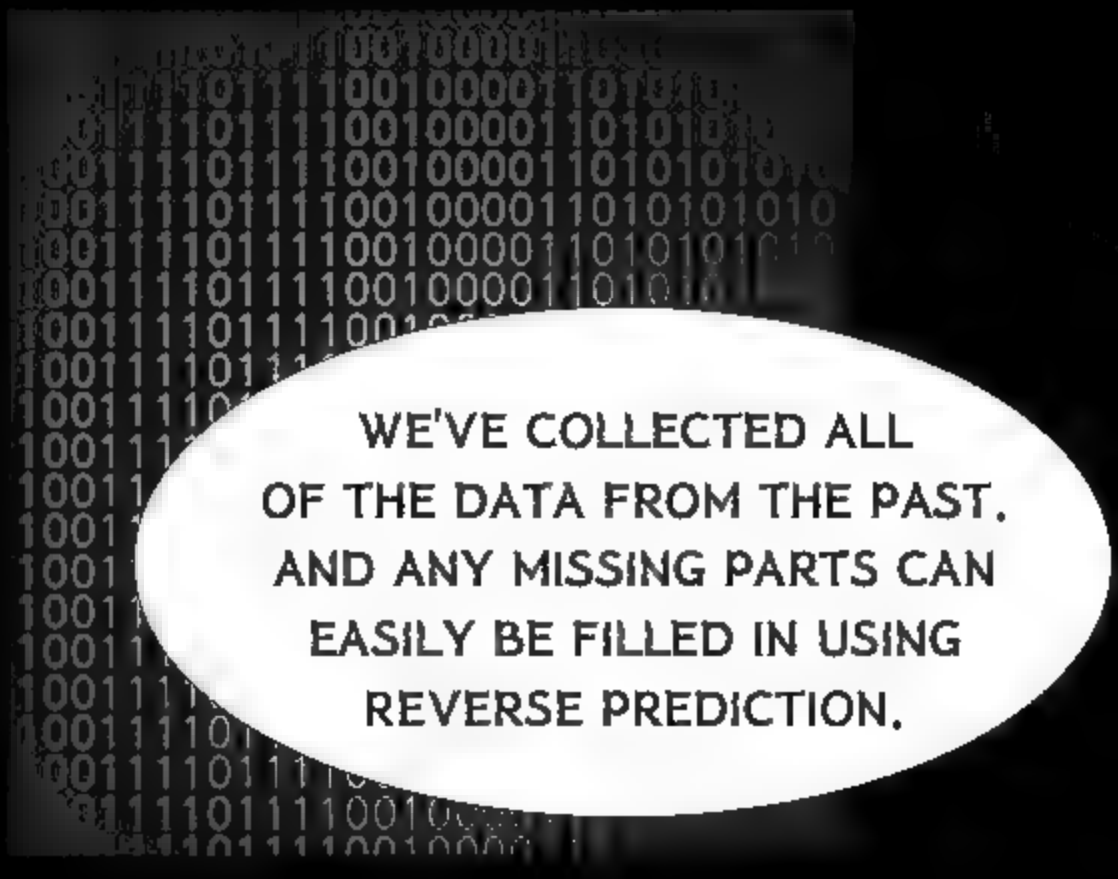
AND YET EVEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE, WITH COMPUTERS POSSESSING UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL CALCULATION SPEEDS, THEY SAY THAT THEY STILL HAVE NOT ACHIEVED A 100% SUCCESS RATE FOR WEATHER FORECASTS.



THE SPECTRUM OF NATURE'S VARIABLES IS FAR TOO VAST TO BE CALCULATED WITH HUMAN MEASURING TOOLS. SINCE EVEN THE ACT OF MEASURING ITSELF CAN AFFECT THE FUTURE.



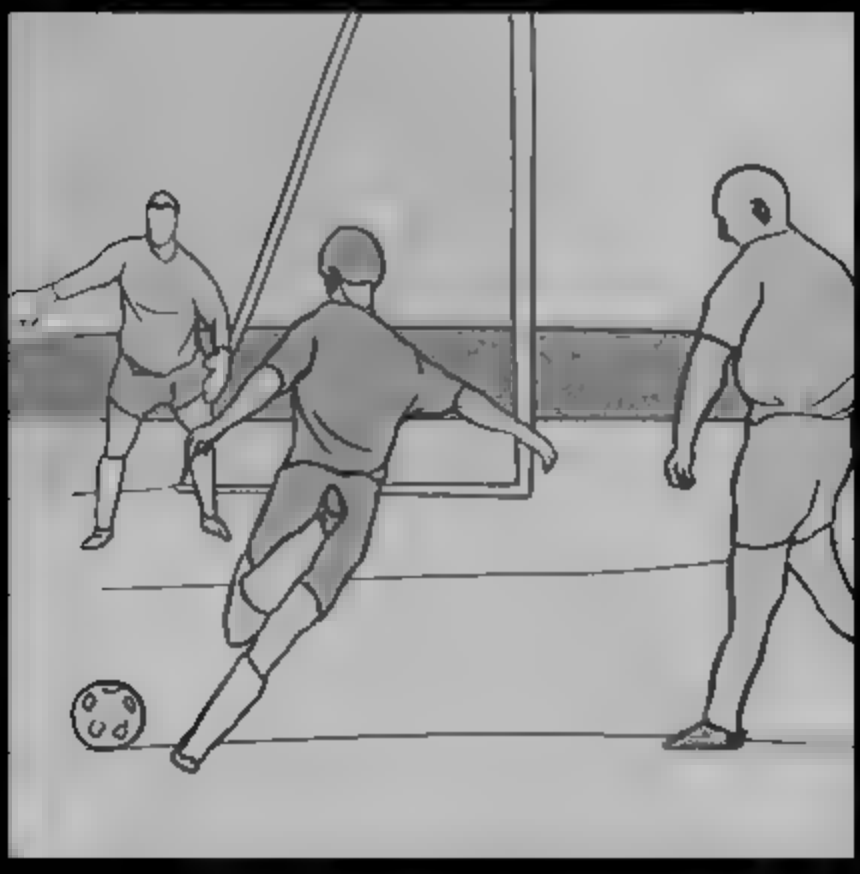
THEY TOLD ME THAT IT WAS RELATIVELY EASIER TO RECONSTRUCT AND REALIZE THE PAST.



SO IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PERFECTLY PREDICT THE FUTURE,

BUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO SELECT A CERTAIN POINT IN THE PAST AND RECREATE IT IN THE PRESENT.

SO... STRICTLY SPEAKING,
THE "ME" WHO IS HERE RIGHT NOW,



IS JUST AN ORGANIC RECREATION OF
THE ORIGINAL "ME" FROM THAT TIME IN
THE PAST WHEN I WAS LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THEY TOLD ME I'M NOT HUMAN.

LET'S HEAD OUTSIDE FOR NOW. WE'RE TAKING TOO MUCH TIME HERE.
THEY SAID THAT I'M A COPY.

NO MORE THAN AN ASSEMBLY OF ORGANIC MATTER.

SO I'M

JUST A PROJECTION OF THE PAST.

THIS IS WHAT

WE TOLD EACH OTHER.

NEXT WEEK, TRANSMISSION (5)

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